

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

--1. (*Currently Amended*) An integral golf ball lifter for attachment to a shaft such as a golf club grip having a generally cylindrical body having a central axis, said body being made of resilient elastomeric material and comprising:

a tubular attachment portion extending along said central axis;

said attachment portion defining a grip receiving cavity having an entrance lip, an inner sidewall, an inner endwall, an outer sidewall, and a circumferential outer edge, said inner sidewall extending axially from said entrance lip to said inner endwall, said outer sidewall extending axially from said entrance lip to said circumferential outer edge; and

a tubular golf ball engaging portion

extending axially outward from said attachment portion along said central axis;

said golf ball engaging portion having a generally cylindrical wall extending from said circumferential outer edge and an inner end wall; said cylindrical wall and said inner end wall defining a golf ball receiving cavity; said cylindrical wall comprising gripping fingers extending

axially outward from an axial location spaced from said inner wall and defined by longitudinal edges forming slits therebetween; said gripping fingers having ~~gripping~~ gripping finger lips at a common axial end location;

wherein said ball engaging portion tapers axially inward from said circumferential outer edge to said gripping finger lips;

whereby said golf ball lifter is mounted on a shaft ~~such as a golf club grip~~ by means of said attachment portion grip receiving cavity;

whereby said gripping finger lips are placed over and against the upper portion of a golf ball resting on a surface ~~such as a grassy surface or the bottom of a golf cup~~ by a users manipulating a golf club shaft extending from ~~the~~ a golf club grip; and

whereby said user applies downward pressure on the shaft, forcing said gripping fingers to expand radially outward around the upper surface of the golf ball to a point such that said gripping fingers grasp the ball within said ball receiving cavity with sufficient force to allow the ball to be lifted from the surface to an elevation easily reached by the user's hand by manipulation of the shaft.

2. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 1, wherein each said gripping finger has an inner wall surface and comprises at least one gripping rib extending radially inward from said inner wall surface and extending axially parallel to said gripping finger lip in the vicinity thereof.

3. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 2, wherein an outer one of said at least one gripping ribs is a radially inward extension of said gripping finger lip.

4. *(Currently Amended)* The golf ball lifter of claim 3, further comprising a second gripping rib spaced ~~radially~~ axially inward from said outer gripping rib.

5. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 4, wherein said gripping fingers are each in the form of a truncated triangle, said lips forming a segmented circle.

6. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 5, wherein said gripping fingers define triangular slits extending from a point axially spaced outward from said circumferential outer edge outward to said gripping finger lips.

7. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 6, wherein said golf ball engaging portion cylindrical wall defines circular gripping finger edge joints from which corresponding said triangular slits longitudinally outwardly extend.

8. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 7, wherein said golf ball engaging portion comprises four golf ball engaging fingers defining four triangular slits.

9. *(Canceled)*

10. *(Currently Amended)* The golf ball lifter of claim 9 1, wherein said tubular attachment portion outer wall tapers axially inward from said circumferential outer edge to said entrance lip.

11. *(Currently Amended)* The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein said resilient elastomeric material is flexible, yet relatively stiff plastic or rubber material ~~such as that used to make furniture leg coasters.~~

12. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein said gripping fingers are identical in dimensions.

13. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein said each of said gripping ribs extend the entire radial distance between longitudinal edges of its respective gripping finger.

14. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein the overall length of said cylindrical body is about 2 3/4 inches and the maximum diameter is about 1 5/8 inches at said circumferential outer edge.

15. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein the maximum diameter of said grip attachment lip is about $1 \frac{5}{16}$ inches, the inside diameter of tubular attachment portion forming said grip receiving cavity is about $1 \frac{1}{16}$ inches, and the depth of the grip receiving cavity is about $1 \frac{1}{16}$ inches axial length between said lip and said inner wall thereof.

16. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 10, wherein the diameter of the ball engaging portion when at rest is about $1 \frac{3}{8}$ inches at said gripping finger lips, the internal axial length of said golf ball receiving cavity between said finger lips and said inner wall is about $1 \frac{1}{4}$ inches, and the thickness of the engaging portion wall including said gripping fingers is about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

17. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 16, wherein the diameter of said circular finger edge joints is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and the spacing between gripping fingers at rest as measured between the respective lips is about $\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

18. *(Original)* The golf ball lifter of claim 16, wherein the radial thickness of the bead shaped gripping ribs is about from 1 to 2 millimeters and the axial spacing of said inner gripping rib from said outer gripping rib is about 0.5 millimeters.--